



Washington, D.C. 20505

OIT #0139-89
1 August 1989

Mr. H. D. Neeley
OSD Records Administrator
Washington Headquarters Services
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

Attention: Mr. Brian V. Kinney

Dear Mr. Neeley:

This is in response to your 10 April 1989 memorandum concerning classified records from the personal collection of the late Major General Edward G. Lansdale, USAF (Ret.). You requested the concurrence of this agency in the transfer of approximately three cubic feet of classified records, currently in the custody of the Department of Defense, to the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, Stanford, California.

It is the opinion of this agency that the transfer of classified documents to the Hoover Institution cannot be reconciled with the responsibilities imposed upon the government by Executive Order 12356 for the protection of classified information. The donation of classified materials to a private party, such as the Hoover Institution, would be inconsistent with the government's obligation to protect national security information.

Accordingly, we cannot concur with the transfer of the Lansdale papers to the Hoover Institution without a declassification review to ensure that all classified information will continue to receive the protection provided by Executive Order 12356. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please contact

Sincerely,

John H. Wright
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1155**

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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COORDINATOR,
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

SUBJECT: The Lansdale Papers

In 1981 the late Major General Edward G. Lansdale, USAF (Retired), sought to donate a personal collection of his papers, consisting of classified and unclassified material, to the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. The Hoover Institution contacted the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which in turn notified the CIA and the Department of State. A meeting was held which resulted in a letter, of July 31, 1981, signed by the Director, Security Plans and Programs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), being sent to the Hoover Institution stating, among other things, that government agencies would review material from the Lansdale Papers deemed sensitive, with the intention of forwarding all declassifiable material to the Hoover Institution, and retaining still sensitive material in government files as a unit. The letter stated further that the nonreleasable material would be reviewed again periodically by DoD, State, and CIA. The review of the material began after the dispatch of the letter, and lasted until 1983. The releasable material was sent in three installments, the last being sent on July 18, 1983. It was stated in the cover letter that approximately 3 cubic feet of material were deemed too sensitive for declassification and release by the interagency task force that reviewed the material, but that this material would be reviewed again in 5 years. The nonreleasable material was retained in the secure spaces of the Declassification and Historical Research Branch of my Division. Your action officer for this case in 1981-83 was [redacted] who retired and now resides in Hawaii.

As it is time for another review of the Lansdale material, which would involve considerable time and resources of DoD, State, and CIA, I propose that the nonreleasable material be transferred to the Hoover Institution. My reasons are as follows:

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All of the Lansdale Papers should be in one place. The Hoover Institution is a cleared Top Secret facility and can properly safeguard material which is not releasable to the public. Ample precedent exists where policy makers have donated their papers to Presidential Libraries, cleared Government or

2

other facilities, such as the Hoover Institution or Library of Congress. I know of no case where the donated material such as this is not homogenous.

It is expected that should they wish to do so, the Hoover Institution will have much less trouble sending the material out for review than would the government agencies concerned. When the nonreleasable material was retained, the integrity of the files from which it was removed was maintained and would have to continue to be maintained for another government review, which would prove logistically burdensome. Hoover, on the other hand, would have the luxury of putting the material in chronological order which will provide the added benefit of quickly identifying duplicate copies of documents.

Finally, since the Lansdale material was involved in a fire, a large number of the nonreleasable documents are charred around the edges, and smell strongly of mildew. It is expected that the Hoover Institution would make better copies of the documents and the collection would be enhanced thereby.

Your views as to the transfer of this material are requested as soon as possible. My action officer in this matter is Mr. Brian V. Kinney, 695-5154/5155 for any questions.



H. D. Neeley
OSD Records Administrator

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied